

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's final Office Action of March 14, 2007 issued with respect to the present RCE application, the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to specify that the casing is configured to allow movement of the connected printhead integrated circuits and printed circuit board relative to the casing. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 13, line 26-page 14, line 21 of the present specification; and

dependent claims 2-6 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the Amendment does not add new matter to the present application, nor any new issues to the prosecution of the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-6 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by previously cited Silverbrook '082 and '908 in view of newly cited Ishikawa (US 6,618,068), for at least the following reasons.

As discussed above, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the printhead modules 30 and PCBs 90, which are connected together through slotted engagement of the connecting portions 81 of the flexible PCBs 80 and the slotted connectors 98 of the PCBs, are able to move relative to the casing 20. In this way, differential expansion of the components during operation of the printhead assembly is compensated for whilst retaining electrical connection between the printhead integrated circuits and the print controller (see page 13, line 26-page 14, line 21 of the present specification).

On the other hand, neither of Silverbrook '082 and '908 teach or suggest such relative movement between the "casing" and the components mounted thereto, and newly cited Ishikawa merely discloses an arrangement in which a printed circuit board 22, which is a separate component from thermal head 20, is divided into control and power printed circuit boards 22a and 22b, which together are mounted to the housing 2 and 3 (see col. 8, lines 1-65 of Ishikawa).

Thus, no combination of Silverbrook '082 and '908 and Ishikawa would result in the claimed arrangement recited in amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-6 dependent therefrom.

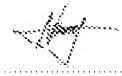
It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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